

Minutes of Waukesha County Airport Operations Commission
October 10, 2012

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Richards, Falstad, Bluemke and Schoekpe.

Others Present: Val Ramos, Airport Administration; Harry Becker, Atlantic Aviation; Betsy Forrest, Department of Public Works; Kurt Stanich, Interim Airport Manager; Ken Witt, Midwest ATC (Tower Chief); Greg Stern, Mead & Hunt; and Allison Bussler, Department of Public Works

Approve modify minutes of August 8, 2012 and September 12, 2012

Motion to approve August 8, 2012 and September 12, 2012 minutes by Commissioner Falstad with second by Secretary Richards. Motion passed.

Public Comment/Correspondence – None

Discussion and action on 2011 Airport Annual Report

Chairman Crowley reviewed report prior to meeting and was very impressed. After Commission approval the report will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday evening, October 23, 2012.

Mr. Stanich reviewed the 19th annual report with the Commission. The Commission was requested to sign a cover letter to be included in the report. A few more items were explained in this report than in the past, where the airport is rated in the State and Nation as an airport, Commission highlights include activity not only action items in the past year, operational highlights included more language on air traffic and fuel volume (how traffic is tabulated and revenue received from fuel). Tax revenue was also highlighted this year. There was more detail showing how the Airport community gives back to the County and to local entities. Page three shows the financial operations had a positive variance, some of this was due to a light snow season, this money was carried over to fund balance. Inter-departmental charges were a bit higher due to pavement and grounds maintenance.

The report was sent electronically and some of the Commissioners said they did not receive the report prior to the meeting. In the future (if time permits), materials for Commission meetings will be sent out via United States mail. Chairman Crowley requested the Commissioners write down their mailing address and give this information to Val. Also, when materials are sent out electronically to the Commission a "Read Receipt" will accompany the mailing.

Motion to approve the 2011 Airport Annual Report for presentation to Waukesha County Board of Supervisors was made by Secretary Richards with second by Vice-chair Bluemke. Motion passed.

Presentation by Mead & Hunt Inc on Airport Capital Projects

Greg Stern addressed this agenda item. Mr. Stern, airport engineer, has been with Mead & Hunt for fifteen years and a good portion of these years has been at Waukesha County Airport. Recently Greg and Kurt met with the Bureau of Aeronautics on updating the Airport's Five Year Plan. Greg explained how some of the projects are moved around, how they are scheduled to fall together, and how the projects will be funded. Handouts were given to follow with the presentation. Bluemke – Runway 28 and Safety Rehab area – how long has this been in the works, about five years?

Stern – Yes, that is right. The Environmental Assessment was started in 2007.

Bluemke – According to handout, looks like completion by 2015. Does not appear to be a top priority project.

Stern – That is correct and it is an important project for the Airport. The safety area project is one that I would like to give some history behind this, why some things have changed and the time it has taken to where we are with the project.

Stanich – There have been many changes to this project since the beginning. Was the County going to use E-mass material or actually lengthen the runway for safety. The result will be a very well laid out and very well designed safety area for our type of airport.

Schoepke – Are projects bid out on their priority (immediate/future needs)?

Stern – That is true and also based on how funding from the FAA is going to come through. One of Mead & Hunt's goals is to present this information (Five Year Plan) to the Commission and get feedback from you.

Stern – Safety Area Project has been ongoing since 2005. Safety areas have always been non-standard at Waukesha (too close to Silvernail Road on the west and too close to Pewaukee Road on the East). For a decade the Airport was getting waivers for their safety areas from the FAA. In early 2000 there was an overrun accident at Chicago's Midway Airport and an eight year old boy was killed. This set off a national mandate from the FAA for all airports to bring their safety areas into compliance. That is where the environmental document started at the Airport in 2005. A number of alternatives were looked at (relocating and shifting the roads). In 2007 after all the alternatives and analysis were completed the consensus from the FAA was to install on each end of the runway Emass (engineered material arresting system) that is basically a weak concrete, so that when an aircraft lands short or over runs the runway, it fails and the aircraft sinks in. It looked like the Airport was headed that way and then the FAA said Emass was an expensive undertaking at a general aviation airport that does not have a huge maintenance staff and a big investment, also in cold weather climate it is cumbersome and requires special equipment to remove snow and maintain it. FAA suggested extending pavement on either end of the runway and using a concept called "declared distances". Declared distances adjusts the starting and stopping points of the runway depending on which way you are going to provide the 1000 foot safety area and end required. Another year and half was spent on where to move the FAA owned navigational instruments. It has been a long process, but finally came to a consensus with the FAA on what direction to go and which environmental document was to be approved.

Commission - Will the Airport will be shut down during this project?

Stern – The Airport will not be shut down during this project. The safety area is a big project and shown to be completed within a two year period. If at all possible, they will try to complete in one year.

Bluemke – Five years ago this was discussed (safety area), then the ADF (automatic direction finder) was closed on the inbound approach. Then there was a new approach from the east that lowered the approach about 400 feet and put a curve into the approach. Now it will be another five years before this approach is changed. As a pilot, does not think it is desirable to wait another five years to straighten out and lower the approach. Why can't this work be done regardless of the project being completed.

Stern – We need to listen to the Commission's priority and work this into the Five Year Plan. It is important for the Commission to understand that the FAA controls the funding for projects they consider priority. Anytime there is federal funding there are also certain requirements that come along with it. Mr. Stern expressed his appreciation on addressing the Commission and offered to attend other Commission meetings and review project funding or any topic the Commission would like to be reviewed.

Crowley – Communication, this is what the Commission needs. Appreciate Mr. Stanich asking Mr. Stern to come and address the Commission on Airport projects. It is a good idea to have Mr. Stern return to review funding (where it is coming from and what the project cost is). The more the Commission is briefed on this process and what impact the Commission has on priorities will be very beneficial.

Stanich – Clarification on project cycle: the Airport identifies a need for a project; they petition the State for the project; and a public hearing (public involvement) is scheduled.

Crowley – Thank you to Mr. Stern and look forward to his next presentation to the Commission on project funding.

Chairman's Report – None

Interim Airport Manager's Report

Runway lighting – Waiting for insurance money for permanent repair to airfield lighting cause by lightning strike in September.

T-Hangar –Working with Facilities on repair work for a T-hangar.

Stevens Point – Attended a one day seminar on Airport Operations and Land Use. Very good information.

Priority List – Revised July list into three categories: Continual Priority Items, Top Priority Items and Other Priority Items.

Aviation Education – Secretary Richards met with Barbara Prinderville and Brian Dorow relative to working with WCTC. They do not want to duplicate anything that is currently in existence. They do not want to offer anything that is being offered at the Airport. Both are very enthusiastic and interested in creating an aviation related program for WCTC and working with the airport. The big question is funding for this program. A program like this would be another promotion for the Airport to bring in business and revenue.

Spring City Aviation – UW-W is working with Spring City to start up a pilot training program. Mr. Stanich drafted a letter addressed to the County Executive expressing airport support for an educational program and partnership. The program may also include airport management and operations.

Tower Activity and Fuel reports

Traffic Activity and Fuel Sales – Third quarter for 2012 shows increase in traffic and fuel sales.

Future Agenda Items -

Airport Priority List
Letter to County Executive and Public Works Director
Education (Aviation)

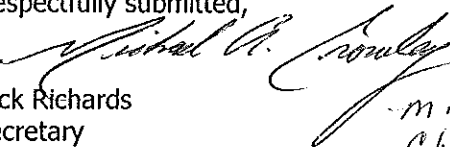
Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Secretary Richards with second by Vice-chair Bluemke. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 9:23 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Richards
Secretary
October 10, 2012


Michael A. Crowley
Chairman 11/14/12